



Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

Free movement of professionals

Professionals in the EU can move across borders and practice their occupation or provide services abroad. These webpages provide practical information on EU legislation governing the recognition of professional experience in the EU.

Coronavirus response in relation to the free movement of health professionals and their training (/growth/single-market/single-market-services/free-movement-professionals/coronavirus-response-relation-free-movement-health-professionals-and-their-training_en)

The Commission has issued a communication with guidance to EU countries to help them address the shortages of health workers created by the coronavirus emergency.

Policy developments (/growth/single-market/single-market-services/free-movement-professionals/policy-developments_en)

Legislation on professional qualifications (/growth/single-market/single-market-services/free-movement-professionals/policy-developments/legislation-professional-qualifications_en).

Enforcement (/growth/single-market/single-market-services/free-movement-professionals/policy-developments/enforcement_en).

Recognition of professional qualifications in practice (/growth/single-market/single-market-services/free-movement-professionals/recognition-professional-qualifications-practice_en)

[General system \(/growth/single-market/single-market-services/free-movement-professionals/recognition-professional-qualifications-practice/general-system_en\)](/growth/single-market/single-market-services/free-movement-professionals/recognition-professional-qualifications-practice/general-system_en).

[Automatic recognition \(/growth/single-market/single-market-services/free-movement-professionals/recognition-professional-qualifications-practice/automatic-recognition_en\)](/growth/single-market/single-market-services/free-movement-professionals/recognition-professional-qualifications-practice/automatic-recognition_en).

[Recognition based on professional experience \(/growth/single-market/single-market-services/free-movement-professionals/recognition-professional-qualifications-practice/recognition-based-professional-experience_en\)](/growth/single-market/single-market-services/free-movement-professionals/recognition-professional-qualifications-practice/recognition-based-professional-experience_en).

[Professions falling under specific legislation \(/growth/single-market/single-market-services/free-movement-professionals/recognition-professional-qualifications-practice/professions-falling-under-specific-legislation_en\)](/growth/single-market/single-market-services/free-movement-professionals/recognition-professional-qualifications-practice/professions-falling-under-specific-legislation_en).

[Temporary mobility \(/growth/single-market/single-market-services/free-movement-professionals/recognition-professional-qualifications-practice/temporary-mobility_en\)](/growth/single-market/single-market-services/free-movement-professionals/recognition-professional-qualifications-practice/temporary-mobility_en).

[European Professional Card \(/growth/single-market/single-market-services/free-movement-professionals/european-professional-card_en\)](/growth/single-market/single-market-services/free-movement-professionals/european-professional-card_en)

The European professional card (EPC) is available from 18 January 2016 for five professions (general care nurses, physiotherapists, pharmacists, real estate agents and mountain guides). It might be extended to other professions in the future.

[Transparency and mutual evaluation of regulated professions \(/growth/single-market/single-market-services/free-movement-professionals/transparency-and-mutual-evaluation-regulated-professions_en\)](/growth/single-market/single-market-services/free-movement-professionals/transparency-and-mutual-evaluation-regulated-professions_en)

To clarify the status of regulated professions in the EU, the European Commission conducted a transparency and a mutual evaluation exercise.

[Database of regulated professions \(/growth/single-market/single-market-services/free-movement-professionals/database-regulated-professions_en\)](/growth/single-market/single-market-services/free-movement-professionals/database-regulated-professions_en)

In every EU country, there are some professions that are regulated. To make it easier for EU citizens to find information about regulated professions, the European Commission set up a database on professional access requirements across the EU.

Policy developments

The system of recognition of professional qualifications in the EU is governed by Directive 2005/36/EC, recently amended by Directive 2013/55/EU. The directive provides a modern EU system of recognition of professional experience and promotes automatic recognition of professional experience across the EU.

In May 2020 the Commission published a [report on the implementation of certain new elements introduced by Directive 2013/55/EU](#) EN and an [accompanying staff working document](#) EN.

[Other policy developments](#) EN

Recognition of professional qualifications in practice

In practice, the recognition of professional qualifications laid down in Directive 2005/36/EC enables the free movement of professionals such as doctors or architects within the EU. Other professions, such as lawyers or sailors, fall under the scope of different legislation.

[The recognition of professional experience in practice](#) { EN | ... }

The European Professional Card

In January 2016, the Commission introduced a new, EU-wide digital procedure for the recognition of professional qualifications – the [European Professional Card \(EPC\)](#) { EN | ... }. The procedure, currently available for general care nurses, physiotherapists, pharmacists, real estate agents and mountain guides, makes it easier for Europeans to work where their professional skills are needed. The EPC contributes to the objective of making the Single Market a reality in practice.

Transparency and mutual evaluation of regulated professions

To clarify the status of regulated professions in the EU, the European Commission conducted a transparency and a mutual evaluation exercise.

[Transparency and mutual evaluation](#) { EN | ... }

Database of regulated professions

The [database of regulated professions](#) contains information on regulated professions, statistics on migrating professionals, contact points and national authorities in EU countries, EEA countries, the UK and Switzerland.

Economic studies

The Commission contracted an independent study to provide more insight into the relationship between professional regulation and service quality. In 6 case studies researchers traced impact of regulatory variations on a wide range of quality indicators. The studies contribute to the development of empirical research methods and strategies to analyse this complex relationship.

[Study: Effects of regulation on service quality](#) { EN | ... }

The Commission contracted several independent economic case studies, conducted at country level, to analyse the effects of reforms of regulatory requirements to access professions. The results of these studies demonstrate that, for the cases analysed, less restrictive regulation can have a positive impact on the labour market.

[Six case studies on the economic effects of reforms of regulated professions](#) { EN | ... }

An independent study to assess the prevalence and labour market impacts of occupational regulation in the EU was conducted using the 2015 European Survey on Regulated Occupations. The aim was to reinforce the evidence base on the economic costs and benefits of occupational regulation.

[Study: Measuring prevalence and labour market impacts of occupational regulation in the EU](#) { EN | ... }

Brexit

- [See specific sectoral guidance notices for stakeholders](#)

Supporting information

Documents

- [User guide to Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications](#) EN ... (in all official EU languages)
- [Code of conduct](#) (3 MB)

Information on EU websites

- [Europe Direct](#) EN ... – for general information
- [Solvit](#) EN ... – for solving problems with national authorities
- [Your Europe Advice](#) EN ... – for personalised legal advice, free of charge

Contact points

- [National authorities](#)
- Assistance centres - these provide information on the recognition of professional qualifications in every EU country and guide professionals through the administrative formalities.

- **BELGIË / BELGIQUE**

FPS Economy, SMEs, Self-employed and Energy
Direction générale Politique des PME - Service Professions intellectuelles et Législation

North Gate - 4th floor
Bd du Roi Albert II, 16
1000 Bruxelles
BELGIQUE

- Tel: +32 2 277 91 51
- Website: <https://economie.fgov.be/en/themes/enterprises/starting-business/conditions-entering/belgian-assistance-centre> EN ...

- **БЪЛГАРИЯ / BULGARIA**

Directorate 'Academic Recognition and Regulated Professions'
(Assistance Centre for Bulgaria)
National Center for Information and Documentation /
Национален център за информация и документация

52 A, G.M. Dimitrov Blvd.
1125 София / Sofia
БЪЛГАРИЯ / BULGARIA

- Mr Kostadin Tonev, Director: Tel / Тел: +359 2 817 38 62, +359 2 817 38 54
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- Email: reg_prof@nacid.bg
- Website: <http://nacid.bg/sites/qual>

◦ ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA

Ministerstvo školství, mládeže a tělovýchovy
Centrum pro uznávání odborných kvalifikací
Oddělení vnější legislativy /
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
Centre for Recognition of Professional Qualifications
External Legislation Unit

- Tel: +420 234 811 579
- Fax: +420 234 811 397
- Email: qualifications@msmt.cz ; uznavanikvalifikaci@msmt.cz
- Website: www.msmt.cz

- Karmelitská 529/5
118 12 Praha 1
ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA

◦ DANMARK

Ministry of Higher Education and Science
Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education

Bredgade 40
1260 København K
DANMARK

- Tel: +45 3544 6200
- Email: kontaktpunkt@ufm.dk
- Website: <http://ufm.dk/recognition/rp>

◦ DEUTSCHLAND

Bundesinstitut für Berufsbildung (BiBB)
Robert-Schuman-Platz 3
53113 Bonn
DEUTSCHLAND

- Tel: +49 (0)228-107 2527
- Email: beratungszentrum@bibb.de
- Website: <https://www.anerkennung-in-deutschland.de/html/de/eu-beratungszentrum.php> < DE | ...

◦ EESTI

1. Ministry of Education and Research
Coordinator: Ms Tiia Raudma

Tel: +372 5649 9163
Email: tiia.raudma@hm.ee
Website: www.archimedes.ee/enic

Estonian ENIC/NARIC, Archimedes Foundation
Contact: Ms Margit Brückel
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10119 Tallinn
EESTI / ESTONIA

- Tel: +372 697 9216
- Fax: +372 6962 426
- Email: margit.bruckel@archimedes.ee
- Website: www.archimedes.ee/enic

◦ **ΕΛΛΑΔΑ / GREECE**

Mr Panayiotis Dimitrakis
Head

Independent Department for the Support of SAEP (Council for the Recognition of Professional Qualifications) and for the Application of European Legislation
General Secretariat for Lifelong Learning and Youth
Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs


- Tel: +30 210 34 42794
- Email: pdimitrakis@minedu.gov.gr
- Website: www.minedu.gov.gr

◦ **HRVATSKA / CROATIA**

Agencija za Znanost i Visoko Obrazovanje
Agency for Science and Higher Education

Nacionalni ENIC/NARIC ured
National ENIC/NARIC office

Donje Svetice 38/5
HR-10000 Zagreb
HRVATSKA / CROATIA

- Tel: +385 1 6274 888
- Email: enic@azvo.hr 

◦ **ESPAÑA / SPAIN**

Subdirección General de Títulos y Ordenación
Seguimiento y Gestión de las Enseñanzas Universitarias
Ministerio de Universidades

Paseo de la Castellana 162, planta 17
28046 Madrid
ESPAÑA / SPAIN

- Email: asistencia.directiva@universidades.gob.es

◦ **FRANCE**

« Guichet Qualifications »
Service à compétence nationale Guichet Entreprises

120 rue de Bercy – Télédock 766
75572 Paris cedex 12
FRANCE

- Email: contact.guichet-entreprises@finances.gouv.fr
- Website: <https://www.guichet-qualifications.fr/en/> EN | ...

◦ **IRELAND / EIRE**

Higher Education Governance & Quality Section
Department of Further & Higher Education, Research, Innovation & Science

Marlborough Street
Dublin 2
IRELAND / EIRE

- Tel: +353 1 889 2085
- Email: qualifications@education.gov.ie
- Website: <http://www.education.ie/en/> EN | ...

◦ **ITALIA**

Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri
Dipartimento Politiche Europee
Ufficio per il mercato interno, la competitività e gli affari generali
Servizio per la libera circolazione delle persone, dei servizi, delle merci e dei capitali

Largo Chigi 19
00187 ROMA
ITALIA

- Email: centroassistenzaqualifiche@politicheeuropee.it
- Website: <http://www.politicheeuropee.gov.it/it/attivita/riconoscimento-qualifiche-professionali/centro-di-assistenza/> IT | ...

Contact person:

- Ms Giovanna Corrado
- Ms Lucia Monaco

◦ **ΚΥΠΡΟΣ / CYPRUS**

Labour Department
Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance

9, Klimentos Str.
CY – 1061 Λευκωσία / Nicosia
ΚΥΠΡΟΣ / CYPRUS

- Email: director@dl.mlsi.gov.cy
- Website: <http://www.mlsi.gov.cy/dl>

Contact person:

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Email: mpelekanou@dl.mlsi.gov.cy

◦ LATVIJA

Academic Information Centre

Postal address: Valņu iela 2

Rīga, LV-1050

LATVIJA Office address: Dzirnavu iela 16, 3rd floor

Rīga, LV-1010

LATVIJA

- Tel: + 371 67225155
- Fax: + 371 67221006
- Email: aic@aic.lv / prof@aic.lv
- Website: www.aic.lv

◦ LIETUVA


Ministry of Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania

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LT-01104 Vilnius

LITHUANIA

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- Ms Sandra Kvaraciejienė
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<https://eimin.lrv.lt/lt/veiklos-sritys/verslo-aplinka/zmogiskuju-istekliu-pletra/lietuvos-respublikos-pagalbos-centras-del-profesiniu-kvalifikaciju-pripazinimo> 

◦ LUXEMBOURG

Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche

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L-2327 Luxembourg

LUXEMBOURG

- Website: <http://www.mesr.public.lu>

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- Mr Pierre Misteri
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◦ MAGYARORSZÁG

Ms Zsófia Bréda
Educational Authority
Hungarian Equivalence and Information Centre

Szalay utca 10-14
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MAGYARORSZÁG / HUNGARY

- Tel: +36 1 374 2212 (we advise our customers to contact us by email)
- Email: recognition@oh.gov.hu
- Website: www.professionalrecognition.hu

◦ MALTA

National Commission for Further and Higher Education (NCFHE)
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- Email: mutualrecognition.ncfhe@gov.mt
- Website: www.ncfhe.gov.mt

◦ NEDERLAND

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www.professionalrecognition.nl

◦ ÖSTERREICH

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◦ POLSKA

Ministry of Education and Science

ul. Hoża 20

PL-00-529 Warszawa

- Tel: +48 22 52 92 266
- Email: kwalfikacje@mein.gov.pl
- Website: <https://www.gov.pl/web/edukacja-i-nauka/uznawanie-kwalifikacji-zawodowych-1> 

◦ PORTUGAL

Centro de Assistência para as Qualificações Profissionais / Assistance Centre for Professional Qualifications

DGERT – Direção Geral do Emprego e das Relações de Trabalho / General-Directorate for Employment and Labour Relations

Praça de Londres, n.º 2 - r/c

1049-056 Lisboa

PORTUGAL

- Tel: +351 215 953 545
- Email: centro.assistencia@dgert.mtsss.pt
- Website: <https://www.dgert.gov.pt/reconhecimento-das-qualificacoes-profissionais>

◦ ROMÂNIA

National Centre for Recognition of Diplomas Granted Abroad/
Centre National pour la Reconnaissance des Diplômes

Str. Spiru Haret, nr. 12, Sector 1

010176 București

ROMÂNIA

- Website: <https://cnred.edu.ro>

Contact persons:

- Ms Gianina Chirazi
Director, National Coordinator
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Email: oana.salomia@edu.gov.ro

◦ SLOVENIJA

Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities / Ministrstvo za delo, družino, socialne zadeve in enake možnosti

Stukljeva cesta 44
SI-1000 Ljubljana
SLOVENIJA
Tel: +386 1 369 7604

- Email: gp.mddsz@gov.si
- Website: <https://www.gov.si/drzavni-organi/ministrstva/ministrstvo-za-delo-druzino-socialne-zadeve-in-enake-moznosti>

Contact person:

- Lucija Logar
Tel: +386 1 369 76 53
Email: lucija.logar@gov.si

◦ SLOVENSKO

Ministerstvo školstva, vedy, výskumu a športu – Stredisko na uznávanie dokladov o vzdelaní a Odborných kvalifikácií /
Ministry of education, science, research and sport – Centre of recognition of foreign diplomas and Professional qualifications

Stromová, 1
SK - 813 30 Bratislava 1
SLOVENSKO / SLOVAKIA

- Tel: +421 2 59 374 923
- Email: sudv@minedu.sk
- Website: www.minedu.sk/uznavanie-dokladov-o-vzdelani-a-odbornych-kvalifikacii-zo-zahranicia/

◦ SUOMI / FINLAND

Finnish National Agency for Education (Opetushallitus)

PO Box 380
FI-00531 Helsinki
SUOMI / FINLAND

- Tel: + 358 29 533 1000
- Email: recognition@oph.fi
- Website: www.oph.fi/recognition

◦ SVERIGE

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- Email: ykinfo@uhr.se, pginfo@uhr.se
- Website: www.uhr.se

◦ UNITED KINGDOM

Please note that as of 31 December 2020 this information will no longer be updated due to the decision of the UK to leave the EU

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◦ LIECHTENSTEIN

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◦ NORGE

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Norway

- Tel: + 47 21 02 18 00 (Monday to Tuesday 12:00 – 15:00)
- Email: utland@nokut.no
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◦ SCHWEIZ / SUISSE / SVIZZERA

Ms Sandra Schindler
Nationale Kontaktstelle für die Anerkennung von Berufsqualifikationen / Point
de contact national pour la reconnaissance des qualifications professionnelles /
Punto di contatto nazionale per il riconoscimento delle qualifiche professionali
State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI

Einsteinstrasse 2
3003 Bern

- Tel: +41 58 462 28 26
- Email: kontaktstelle@sbfi.admin.ch
- Website: www.sbfi.admin.ch/diploma EN ...

- [National websites on regulated professions](#)
- Single Points of Contact- professionals may also consult the [single points of contact](#) EN ... to carry out all the administrative procedures electronically.